K Belfiegor
1630. c. 9
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THE

DIABO-LADY

OR,

A MATCH IN HELL.

A

POEM.

DEDICATED TO THE

WORST WOMAN

IN

HER MAJESTY's DOMINIONS.

A NEW EDITION,
WITH LARGE ADDITIONS.

O FAIREST OF CREATION, LAST AND BEST
OF ALL GOD'S WORKS, CREATURE IN WHOM EXCELLED
WHATEVER CAN TO SIGHT OR THOUGHT BE FORMED,
HOLY, DIVINE, GOOD, AMIABLE, OR SWEET!
HOW ART THOU LOST! MILTON.

LONDON:
Printed for FIELDING and WALKER, No. [illegible] P[illegible]

BRITISH MUSEUM

DEDICATION

TO THE

WORST WOMAN

IN

HER MAJESTY's DOMINIONS

MADAM, OR, MY LADY,

AS I am happily but little acquainted with Ladies in high life, I
feſs myſelf perfectly ignorant either of your rank or demerits; w
has reduced me to the aukward neceſſity of this vague and
finite addreſs. The character above deſcribed will, no doubt, be ſev
and particularly applied, according to the World's gueſs, knowledge, or
levolence; and a certain conſciouſneſs in ſome female breaſts, may p
make them conclude themſelves to be the perſons obliquely aimed

place; but I hereby declare, that I had no ſpecific Female in view when down to write this Dedication; and ſhall therefore refer my fair Rea- to the known Adage of, *Qui capit, ille fecit*; which, for their ſakes, all tranſlate, by a ſynonimous Engliſh Proverb, *Whom the Cap fits, e'en em wear it.*

he following Verſes, be aſſured of it, Madam, are the firſt *Juve-* Lines I ever compoſed, in my life; but being a ſort of Knight- t in my Nature, I confeſs I felt myſelf conſiderably piqued, for the ur of your ſex, upon peruſing a Poem called *The* DIABOLIAD, lately ſhed; and not ſeeing any manner of reaſon, why or wherefore Women not as good a right, where equal merits appear, to be *damned to ever- g fame*, as well as Men, I have thus boldly ventured to enter the liſts hivalry againſt that partial Author, and meaſure my lance with his, in xtenſive *Campus Martius* of Satire.

" Tremble, thou wretch!
" That haſt within thee undivulged crimes,
" Unwhipt of juſtice!

neither of us pretend to ſtile ourſelves Poets (I ſpeak for myſelf, at ſo that to carry on the alluſion above made, we may be conſidered as *Squires*, than *Knights*, in this ſpecies of literature. But as Indig- is ſaid to inſpire Verſe, we have equally, and I think commendably xpreſſed our reſentment againſt the numerous vices and groſs immo- of the times.

The

The example of Superiors is a matter of great moment to the i
claſſes of mankind. The vices of the Great naturally deſcend; but t
the Vulgar ſeldom riſe. People of rank muſt ſtoop to them, ere th
ceive the infection. The depravity of a ſingle Peer or Peereſs, abo
James's, diffuſes more poiſonous effects through the Town, than all th
fligacy of St. Giles's.

Poſſibly, the corrupt manners of the preſent age may not exceed th
former times; but there is this peculiar diſtinction to be obſerved b
them. That, upon a compariſon, the purity, virtue and decorum, of ou
and Queen, form ſo ſtriking a Contraſt with the Corruption of m
among the generality of our Nobility, and other reſpectable ranks o
in this kingdom, as may render the Modern Libertiniſm, and inde
of this Nation, more apparently remarkable, than thoſe of our Prede
Charles and his Court were of a Piece—George and his are of a qui
ferent Pattern.

The ſtricteſt and moſt comprehenſive laws of Man, cannot be ſo
framed as to apply a remedy, or a ſcourge, to many of the crim
enormities daily practiſed in the world. Satire, therefore, is an uſefu
plement to Legiſlation. When a Culprit eſcapes out of the hands of
he ſhould always be hanged in effigy. This reſource, then, in ſom
ſerves to ſupply the Office of CENSOR, which it was thought nece
eſtabliſh in the ancient Common-wealth of Rome.

ſharp pen of Aretin once made moſt of the Sovereign Princes of
his tributaries; and the keen Iambics of Archilochus and Hippo-
who, without vanity I may ſay, were not better Poets than we, are
have driven the Perſons who were the ſubjects of them, to ſuch acts
ſperation, as to hang and drown themſelves. I ſhould be ſorry to
f ſo tragical an effect being produced by the lines of my ſpirited
eer or me; for though I bear hatred to vice, I harbour no malevo-
even to the vicious; but if our ſtrictures ſhould conduce towards the
ation, the contrition, or repentance, of the ſeveral objects of our re-
we may be ſaid to have performed ſome ſervice, at leaſt, to the Com-
ealth of Morals. Such as they are, you are moſt heartily welcome to
and that you may receive the full benefit of their intention, is the
wiſh of,

MADAM, or, My LADY,

Your moſt humble and obedient Servant,

BELPHEGOR.

ADVERTISEMENT

BY THE

EDITORS.

WHEN the following Poem was put into our hands, we though
neceſſary to write Notes on ſome of the paſſages, in order to ren
the Text more clear and intelligible; for though the Author, in his Prefa
takes the liberty of comparing himſelf to *Juvenal*, we are of opinion that
more reſembles *Perſius*; whoſe writings are both more ſevere, and obſcu
But in ſome places, indeed, he has ſpoken rather too plain; which has indu
us to leave out ſeveral of his lines, as may be ſeen by the aſteriſks, in ſo
of the following pages.

To the PUBLIC.

OME time after the firſt Edition of this Poem was publiſhed, an Anſwer to it was advertiſed, under the Title of ANTI-DIABO-LADY; which pleaſed uch, as I was in hopes that ſome gallant Champion of the Ladies and I might had occaſion for ſome *keen encounter of our wits*, as Richard ſaid to Lady Anne ad reaſon, at leaſt, to have ſuppoſed that the argument would have been taken the old *Quagmire*, not *Terra-firma*, ground, of perſonal ſtricture being un-ntable, as the puniſhment may extend beyond the guilty—whieh is a plea often uſe of by Culprits, in bar of ſentence—and that the liberty of the Preſs mili-gainſt the liberty of the Subject, if Lords, Ladies, Gentry, and others, may o as they pleaſe, *unaccountably*;—and that thus to impoſe a *tax* upon Vice, with-ringing in a Shilling to the Treaſury, is ſuch an oppreſſion as was never ht of, even by our Miniſtry.

t not a word in the Piece of all my ingenious ſurmiſes; for how mortified and ointed was I, upon peruſing this wretched ſcroll, when I there met with ſuch le-bubble, unmeaning, catchpenny ſtuff, as no Blackſmith, Collier, or Chimney-er ever ſet pen to paper, or Printer's Devil put manuſcript to Preſs with, before.

BELPHEGOR.

THE DIABO-LADY.

Nec tibi regnandi veniat tam dira Cupido ;
Quamvis Elyſios miretur Græcia campos,
Nec repetita ſequi curet Proſerpina matrem.

VIRG. Georg. I.

** now ſeated on the Infernal Throne, (*a*)
Thought it not good the DEVIL ſhould be alone;
And ſo reſolved to marry, if a Wife,
Fit Conſort, could be found, to match his life.

" Shall I, ſaid he, who ne'er obeyed a God,
" Obſerve his precepts in my own abode;

ſtrain my acts within the Chriſtian ſcope,
d whore in celibacy, like the POPE?
hat tho' I'm head of that Hierarchal Scheme,
hich deems it ſin in Prieſts to quench their flame
Marriage-rites; yet Modern Records tell,
o' made in Heaven, they are confirmed in Hell.
ce ſuch the preſent ſtate of Wedlock, I,
Prieſt and Devil, will the adventure try.
ides, the Pagan ſyſtem is my Creed,
d in that ancient ritual all may read,
at Pluto, our great Prototype, had wed
mortal female to his throne and bed." (*b*)

The Poet may poſſibly be reprehended here, by ſome Critics or Divines, for the
on of theology that may be objected to this paſſage. But as the good old pro-
ys, that *Example is better than precept*, we ſhall refer his defence, firſt, to Arioſto,
o, I forget which, for I am but a poor ſcholar in the *baſtard Latin* Authors, where
athen mythology and the Chriſtian ſyſtem are mixed together in the ſame ſcene;
xt, to Rubens, who in his Luxemburgh Gallery has made Hymen and St. Denis
k it is) jointly preſide at the marriage of Henry IV.

He

He ſaid; then ſent his Imps thro' Earth to rove,
And chuſe a Paramour for SATAN's love.
The ready Miniſters of Hell's commands
Obedient fly, and take their ſeveral ſtands
At COURT, CORNELYS', and the COTERIE;
Where Vice, more vicious by effrontery,
Fearleſs, unbluſhing, braves the eternal laws
Of GOD and MAN, to aid the DEVIL's cauſe.
From theſe reſorts the Imps of SATAN choſe
So hopeful a Seraglio, that 'twould poſe
The DEVIL himſelf to judge the equal claims
To Hell's Sultanaſhip, between ſuch Dames;
Who eager all to obtain Infernal ſway,
In order thus prefer their ſeveral plea.

Firſt * appeared, and to conviction ſwore,
Her ſmalleſt crime was that of being Whore;
Adultery ſhe added to her plan,
Defying equally both GOD and MAN.

gery and perjury owned such art,
lmed the Gold, while others paid the smart:
ft her just pretences should be vain,
delphi P** (*c*) vouch the tragic scene!

AN with pleasure heard the shocking tale,
vard grieved such merits there should fail;
Vice defeats itself," replied the DEVIL,
makes *examples* to deter from evil."

** forward came, as frail as fair,
ged her suit with confidential air:
nobly born," she cried, " and high in life,
otless Maiden, and an honoured Wife,
corning these, I spurned such humble fame,
boldly sacrificed a Matron's name:

ir T** F** too might have sufficiently supported the same evidence; but, by being mentioned in this cause, 'tis to be supposed that his avocations in Change d prevented his appearance *yet* in Court.

Lady Goosemer

" My firſt amour was with a Youth of Blood; (*d*)
" But here I would not have it underſtood,
" That 'twas Ambition made me aim ſo high,
" No — 'twas to aggrandize my infamy;
" I choſe, to ſhew all ſenſe of virtue loſt,
" A Swain who nought but Pedigree could boaſt:
" Aſk treach'rous D**, if you doubt my word,
" Who firſt abetted, then *approved* (*e*) me whored,
" And ſtampt the ſhame ſhe (*f*) had herſelf procured.
" A firſt amour is ſeldom found the laſt,
" From hand to hand thro' low intrigues I paſt;

(*d*) Leſt the equivocation of Titles might lead our readers to miſtake the per we think it proper to acquaint them that this Galant was not the Hero of C***, the one who going to bed *by himſelf*, was ſurprized, when he awoke, at *finding hi by himſelf quite alone*. See certain Love-Letters upon record.

(*e*) One of the ſenſes of this verb is, in a legal ſenſe, *to accuſe, to inform aga or convict*; from whence the Noun *Approver*. This note had been unneceſſary, if L phanes, among the other neglects in his pompous Dictionary, had not left this ar imperfect.

(*f*) A certain Lady *of quality* who was a confidant in the amour, and afterwards pro the *Crim. Con.* in Court.

l ſatiating the public eye, leſs rare,
eaſed at length to be the *public care.* (*g*)
t being reſolved thro' all mankind to rove,
when neglected, proffered love for love; (*h*)
d tho' an Earl's Coronet I ſtill poſſeſt,
rona Veneris (*i*) was my favourite Creſt."

e pauſed; when SATAN, with deciſion nice,
ed theſe but petty-larcenies in vice;
ilfered from herſelf, ſhe injured none,
herefore was unfit to grace his throne.
y deeds have been ſo very mean, he cried,
ey but prefer you to be **'s bride: (*k*)
ides, to credit your firſt Shame we're loath,
being acquitted on a *Bible-Oath.*" (*l*)

Publica cura—an expreſſion made uſe of by Horace, for a Courteſan, L. II. Od. 8.

This was apparently the caſe at a late Maſquerade.

This is not the Myrtle Wreath with which the *Venus Amica* crowns her Votaries, certain *Frontlet*, with which her Baſtard Siſter, the *Venus Meretrix*, is uſed to ize her Devotees.

See The Diaboliad, page 13, 2d paragraph.

The Story is upon record, and therefore requires no note.

The

The next that roſe was wanton ***,
With front aſſured, and dreſſed *en Cavalier*;
A*** (*m*) led her forth, *Jack H*** (*n*) followed,
While Grooms and Jockeys in full chorus hallooed.
The tale ſhe told 'twere needleſs to repeat,
'Twas Meſſalina's hiſtory compleat;
She loved to ride, and to be ridden too,
And came prepared to *give the Devil his due.*

Old ** (*o*) trembled at ſuch vigorous boaſt,
And quick diſmiſſed her from the Stygian coaſt.
To **'s Caſe in point, (*p*) he thus alludes,
" *Rough Riders*, male or female, HELL excludes."

Then with a high and all-commanding air,
Slowly advancing, ***, once fair,

(*m*) A foreign Count with whom ſhe had her firſt *public* amour.

(*n*) A Poſtillion with whom ſhe had her ſecond.

(*o*) See The Diaboliad, laſt page, and laſt line.

(*p*) See The Diaboliad, page 13, firſt paragraph.

ared in diſtant view. The Cyprian Dame,
ted by her MARS, (*q*) aſpired to claim
vacant Crown; but haply on her way,
ving in a nook ſome Imps at play,
urned aſide, to learn ſome ſleight of hand,
ut, or ſhuffle, and the game command;
new device, ſome yet-unpractiſed cheat,
ozen, pilfer, and the Rook compleat.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

* * * * * * * * * * * *

gave advantage to a rival Queen
e her place, and prior audience gain.

now preſſed before, and claimed deſert,
ving broke a too fond huſband's heart;
the joys of marriage-rites ſtill true,
he was dead, ſhe had engaged with two:
rſt ſhe jilted, being thought too tame,
ed the Bully of her tickliſh fame,

(q) We confeſs ourſelves to be in doubt whether the Poet alludes to General C*, or Secretary at War, in this paſſage.

And

And like *Quiteria* in *Cervantes'* Tale,

The bleeding *Baſil* wed, *Camacho* (*r*) left to rail:

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

But timorous **, in a ſore affright,

Hearing the deſperate proweſs of her Knight,

Replied, " I dare not to this match agree,

" Who fights my Prieſts, (*s*) would *play the Devil* with me."

(*r*) And his railing has had good effect, we hear, as the Don has got ten tho pieces, and a good riddance into the bargain, for a releaſe of contract. This ſecond Suitor this Heroine has bought off. The firſt was one to whom ſhe had affianced by her father's will, and who piouſly attending to the advice of Sol *Leave off Contention before it be meddled with*, remitted his claim, upon that dition.

(*s*) This alludes to a late extraordinary Duel; but we cannot ſee why the has taken the liberty of putting the Noun into the Plural Number here; fo Member of the Church Militant in that martial ſtrife, is but one; and we c ſuppoſe our Author meant to compliment him with the name of *Legion*—Nor i Reverend Perſon yet in poſſeſſion of *Pluralities*, either. In our Second Edition pe we may be able to explain this matter further.

ext ****, not far behind in fame,
front assured, stepped forth to urge her claim;
modestly denied all innate vice,
owned she bought one at a dearer price;
like a Platonist, in strain sublime,
me a pander to a Sister's crime;
ing that those who selfish views discard,
vice, like virtue, as its own reward:
oon by loose example trained to ill,
being resolved her cup of guilt to fill,
ing to be by vulgar patterns led,
hose the husband of a Sister's bed.

* * * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * * *

Nonnulla desunt.

* * * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * * *

e had finished, stepping straight between,
val sister with indignant mien,
s her merits to be SATAN's Queen.
slight pretence, she cried, from me she earned,
o taught her all those arts from you I learned;

" Nay

" Nay, even the crimes ſhe practiſed, ne'er were meant,
" Nor was my ſpouſe inveigled—*he was lent*;
" And tho' ſhe forged an heir—*'twas by conſent*:
" For merely to maintain domeſtic chorus,
" She joined a *Silius* (*t*) to her huſband's *Sporus*. (*u*)

* * * * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * * * *

Multa deſiderantur.

* * * * * * * * * * *
* * * * * * * * * * *

" While I, tho' unprovoked by Wedlock's dues,
" Being ſacrificed to pathics, or the ſtews,
" A volunteer in Vice, purſued the game,
" Turk, (*x*) Jew, (*y*) or Infidel, (*z*) to me the ſame;

(*t*) One of the Galants of *Meſſalina*, whom ſhe publickly married, in her huſban life-time.

(*u*) One of Nero's Ganymedes, whom he habited like a woman, and eſpouſed form.

(*x*) A certain Envoy from the *Porte* at *Paris*.

(*y*) *T**s*, an *Iſraelite*—but not *without guile*, in London.

(*z*) Any Libertine, any where.

" N

ay more, to crown my crimes in this career,
t length brought forth a ſurreptitious heir, (*a*)
Which tho' the laws prevented to ſucceed, (*b*)
he will ſhould be accepted for the deed."

Vhile ſhe ſuch *Bona Dea* myſteries (*c*)
als in open Court, without diſguiſe;
AN by turns the Candidates ſurveyed,
having heard theſe *friendly rivals* plead,
ed for a while in doubt how to decide
ch had the juſteſt claim to be his Bride.

At

) To the *** title, and ** eſtates.

) Her huſband, upon hearing of her pregnancy, after ſeparation *à menſâ et* inſtituted a ſuit which precluded her baſtard from inheriting; which the Auguſt of our Peerage, 'tis to be ſuppoſed, have had ample reaſon to rejoice at, ſince, ccount of the acceſſion of the preſent illuſtrious Noble.

) This refers to a certain *female coterie*, held anciently in Rome, and conſecrated Goddeſs of that name, from which aſſembly all Males were publicly excluded, h ſometimes particular favourites were privately admitted; as *Clodius*, &c. This

ſame

At length reſolved, rejects their equal plea,
As being Siſters—*Siſters, every way.* (*d*)

The COURT at length fatigued, here made a pauſe,
To gain freſh ſpirits to renew the cauſe;
And ſo adjourned itſelf an hour or ſo,
And with the reader's leave we'll do ſo too.
Some ſay they ſpent this happy interval
In riot, and in feaſting carnival,

ſame Madam *Bona Dea* was an unfortunate woman, who had been whipped to d by her huſband, for being a drunkard. 'Twas but a piece of political juſtice, tha who had lived like *a Sow*, ſhould die like *a Pig*; and this might, perhaps, have been reaſon of one of her Rites, which was the Sacrificing a *Sow-pig* on her Altar. inſtrument of her infliction too, according to the ſame laws of poetical juſtice, alſo hint at another failing of this *good Lady*'s, as it was a *Myrtle* rod, a tree ſacre *Venus*. Her huſband repented him of his Severity, vowed ſhe was a *good woman* in main, and deified her by way of atonement.

How happy for the world of morals ſince, that the Pope has wreſted the powe *Apotheoſis*, out of the hands of the heathens; for ſurely in all the Romiſh *Rigm* of Saints, there is not ſuch a canonization as this!

(*d*) An expreſſion in the Play of Love for Love, made uſe of from one Siſt another, upon finding a bodkin in the *ſtuprous* bed where the other had left it. *prous* from *Stuprum*, q. e. *Adulterium cum nuptâ*. *Vide Papinianus, de Lege Juliâ.*

ſons of tumult uſe, in law or war,
ho fight in fields, or wrangle at the bar.
r whatſoe'er Metaphyſicians think,
e Gods are ſaid to love both meat and drink;
d Jews with Heathens in this point agree,
at Deities are not from hunger free;
r Homer treats his Gods and his Goddeſſes
ith ſacred nectar and ambroſia meſſes;
ho, when they all had got divinely drunk,
yed Thunderer, or Raviſher, or Punk:
o' Theologiſts may pretend to ſhew it,
at this but proves the hunger of the poet;
ſuch a one, they ſay, was natural thinking,
e bliſs ſupreme of eating and of drinking.
what ſurmiſe can they object to thoſe,
ho have affirmed the ſame in ſimple proſe?
did not Abraham his table ſpread,
ore three Angels, both with veal and bread?
d did not Lot unleavened cake provide,
feed like gueſts, who in his houſe abide?

But

But whether Spartan black-broth ſups the Devils,
Or brimſtone ſoup ſupplies their nightly revels,
Or whether coſtive pitch their cooks prepare,
Drenched and diluted with true Norway tar;
Can never be inveſtigated here;
And much I truſt we ne'er ſhall taſte them there.
For even the objects of my harſheſt ſentence,
I call up not to judgment, but repentance.
Howe'er that be, I ſhall not ſquander rhime,
In gueſſing how theſe Demons ſpent their time,
During their ſhort receſs; but re-aſſume
The broken thread, and weave it in my loom.

Soon as the Court returned, a female band,
In Maſquerade diſguiſed, marched hand in hand;
Some with vermilion and ceruſe beſmeared,
Behind their vizards no detection feared;
Others in white and blue arrayed, belie
The emblems of innocence and conſtancy.
But Nomenclators were not wanting there,
Their characters and perſons to declare.

* ſtood foremoſt in this motley train,
ded by her lovely daughters twain,
and C***; S* and M** next;
frontleſs B** with mien unſex'd;
e Lady P**, 'midſt this frolic crew,
ed half her face aſide, but quick withdrew. (*e*)

* * * * * * * * * * *

Cætera deſunt.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

heſe in loud chorus raiſed their voice to ſing
laud and glory of Hell's mighty King;
to his Throne or bed made not pretenſion,
vedlock ties to them had no detention;

) There were ſome reports at firſt to the diſadvantage of this Lady's Charac-
on her ſeparation from her huſband, as there is but one cauſe to which ſuch
hes are generally imputed; but her conduct and behaviour, ever ſince, have
ſo prudent and irreproachable, that ſuch haſty and unwarranted cenſure has
died away. Our Author has ſhewn great candour in this paſſage, and ſeems
y to have hinted at the ſcandal, in order to obviate the reproach.

Confeſſing

Confeſſing they would chuſe unlicenſed love,
Rather than be the Conjugate of Jove.
They ſaid they only juſt ſtept down in ſport,
To ſee the manners of the Infernal Court,
And take an antepaſt of what might be
Their future lot, when death ſhould ſet them free.
So curtſying low retired, with jocund air,
And to their former haunts on earth repair.

Then next, with haggard look, and mien demure,
Late from the Iſle of *Saints and Literature*, (*f*)
Arrived a Dame, with brogue and impudence,
Who to the Infernal Throne thus makes pretence:
" I bear my title from a land diſtinct,
" Which claims a kingdom in its own precinct;
" The rule of *Tacitus* binds not our coaſt,
" *Imperium in Imperio* is its boaſt; (*g*)

(*f*) Ireland, ſo intitled from the æra of St. Patrick, who firſt introduced r
and learning there, and ſanctified that Holy-Land from toads and ſerpents.
(*g*) This is what the Hiſtorian calls a Monſter in Polity.

ſcorning Common Law ſecurities,
d, pledge, and oath are made its ſureties. (*b*)
h dear prerogatives ſo fired my ſoul,
ir impulſe love nor duty could controul;
' wedded to a youth whoſe form and face
roved him of the true *Mileſian* race; (*i*)
ble in diſcharge of marriage vows,
would have ſcared a *Macaroni* Spouſe; (*k*)
all theſe rare endowments ſet at nought,
rned ſuch bliſs, and with ambition fraught,
n *on this fair mountain left to feed,*
atten on a Moor: (*l*) Opprobrious deed!
his I did, like *Gertrude,* (*m*) at a time
n th' *hey-day in the blood* had paſſed its prime.

The modus of lending money in that Diſtrict is, to take a bond for the ſum, a
or the value, and an oath for the performance of covenants.
The ancient Iriſh, ſo called from *Mileſius,* a Spaniſh general, who is ſaid to
pled that Country, long before the days of St. Patrick, with a Colony whoſe
nts are remarkable for broad ſhoulders and thick legs.
The *Macaronies* are a Species of Spindle-ſhanked Gentry, who are ſaid to
thing but voices, to be Italian ſingers.
Hamlet's Speech to his Mother.
The Queen in Hamlet.

" And

" And *left the judgment ripe:* (*n*) But vice prevailed,

" Where paſſion, reaſon, and eſteem had failed.

" Thro' various freaks of wild caprice I ran,

" Preferred a Pigmy to a proper Man;

" Scorning by human Morals to be tied,

" And ſmit with ardour to become thy Bride,

" Leſt my uncertain ſteps ſhould move aſtray,

" I choſe a Sooterkin (*o*) to lead the way.

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Hiatus valde deflendus.

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Here roſe the Chancellor to make reply,

As *conſcience-keeper* to his Majeſty. (*p*)

" Moſt mighty Liege," he ſaid, " I've heard a Story,

" That in that Land there is a *Purgatory*, (*q*)

(*n*) The words in Italic, in theſe two lines, are a Parody on the above Speech.

(*o*) A ſort of falſe conception, ſaid to be produced by the Dutch women, fro their ſitting ſo conſtantly over their ſtoves.

(*p*) This is one of the titles or characters of the Chancellor of England, aſſu ed in former Times, when the King's Confeſſors, whether Biſhops, Prieſts or Deaco were uſually preferred to this high poſt.

(*q*) There is a ſpot in Ireland, denominated *St. Patrick's Purgatory.*

" Found

Founded and conſecrated by its Patron, (*r*)
Whoſe hallowed flames diſqualify this Matron.
For *Auſtin*, who firſt broached this *ordeal fire*,
Decreed that toaſted ſouls ſhould ne'er come nigher
To theſe abodes; and tho' this doctrine ſlept,
For near two Centuries, till Gregory, th' adept
In theologic Lore, revived the flame,
And made it part of his hierarchal ſcheme: (*s*)
Yet by the Compact betwixt Prieſt and Devil,
We muſt ſubmit to this too partial evil.

" In

(*r*) *St. Patrick* is ſtiled the Patron Saint of *Hibernia*.

(*s*) We cannot explain this whole paſſage better, than in the words of, an ingenious modern Author, who thus expreſſes himſelf upon this Subject:

" As to *Purgatory*, this doctrine was never even ſo much as thought of 'till *St. Auſtin*'s time; who both ſaid, and unſaid it, and at laſt left it doubtful; nor did it come into the leaſt manner of credit, 'till about two hundred years after, in the time of Pope Gregory the Firſt. What a number of Souls muſt have been lying aſleep in *Limbo*, all this while, 'till his Holineſs thought it time to awaken them to torments, *for the good of the Church*! The Doctors themſelves are ſo divided, as to all the points and circumſtances of this Faith, that perhaps it may be an entertainment to the Reader to hear the various and contradictory opinions that have been formed about it.

" Firſt,

" In ſuch ſucceſſion would be found a flaw,
" As 'tis forbidden by the *Canon-Law*;
" I therefore think this caſe exceeds our ſcope,
" Nor ſhould we quarrel with our friend the *Pope*.

" True," SATAN cried, " if rogues ſhould diſagree,
" On what a ſlipp'ry rock ſtands *Holy-See?*
" Tho' ſeriouſly, what faith on ſuch reliance,
" Since GANGANELLI (*x*) has infringed the alliance,
" And at our empire late has hurled defiance?
" But let us do our part, and leave the ſhame
" Of broken contracts, to frail mortals' blame."
Then turning to the Dame, her ſuit rejected—
The Dame retired, *tho' not abaſhed*, dejected.

" Firſt, then, as to the place, where they ſuppoſe this viſionary gaol to lie. E
" have it to be at the bottom of the Sea, others in Mount *Ætna*, or *Veſuvius*:
" learned *Bernard de Buſtis* has, *with the moſt probability*, determined it to a hill in
" as there is a Cave under it, in that Kingdom, known by the name of *St. Patri*
" *gatory*; and he ſhewed them that ſpot for the place, when he converted the wh
" to the Chriſtian Faith, by demonſtrating the Trinity from the example of a *Sha*
Prieſtcraft Diſplayed; or a Hiſtory of the Religious Juggles of Ancient and
Rome. See the Weſtminſter Magazine for February and March 1773.

(*x*) The late Pope, and only infallible one. See his Life and Letters lately

n next moved forward, waddling on her ſtumps, old Dutcheſs of Kingſ
ght to put poor Atlas to his trumps;
ne that late had puzzled heraldry
what *Alias* it ſhould ſtile her by;
had ſhe been but born in days of yore,
have given Hercules one labour more;
e no mortal Might for her was able,
s who cleanſed the foul Augean Stable.
ure wanton, falſe, and prone to ill,
ſhe had, and wicked wit at will;
ent ſtill in Vice, from firſt to laſt,
ſcenes of *many-coloured* (*t*) life ſhe paſt.
ooking long in amorous flames to burn,
ored or wedded, as it ſerved her turn;
rried and unmarried as ſhe pleaſed,
Lords (*u*) and Doctors Commons ſtood amaz'd!

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n Epithet of Doctor Johnſon's, in his Prologue to the opening of Drury-Lane

The Houſe of Lords.

— Dutcheſs of Kingſton)

But

But now grown wiſer, ſhe reſolv'd to fix
Her ſeat of empire on the banks of Styx;
But firſt enquired, "Are any here who knew
"A Devil on Earth, whom Men call *Le Boiteux?* (*x*)
"For vengeance on him, *even to Hell's-gates* (*y*) I come;
"And know, my Liege, I'm juſt arrived from Rome: (*z*)
"On earth he made my Hell; and have not I,
"As Satan's Queen, (*a*) a right to make him fry?

(*x*) Our Ariſtophanes, or *Devil upon Two Sticks*, with whom this Lady held a for Mountebank Correſpondence, upon the occaſion of a Piece of his then coming out, which ſome part of her *private* hiſtory, of *public* notoriety, was to be exhibited on Stage. (Foote)

(*y*) The Author, we ſuppoſe, meant here to allude to one of her Letters, upon above occaſion; but he is miſtaken in the paſſage; the Lady did not promiſe to c her complaiſance ſo far. As well as we can recollect, ſhe only mentioned that ſhe wo attend him *to Tyburn*, and then leave him to ſhift for himſelf, and *go to the Devil own way.*

(*z*) She had lately a villa near that City, and lived in great intimacy with Pope.

(*a*) This expreſſion was rather premature—She was but preſumptive Conſort. H perhaps, ſhe thought ſhe might do in Hell as ſhe had done on Earth, and marry wh ſhe pleaſed, right or wrong.

"W

16

What muſic to my ears, to hear him yell,
And make his *Trip to Calais*, (*b*) one to Hell!
Above he 'ſcaped my utmoſt ſpite and power,
Grant me revenge, I aſk no other Dower!
And reſt my Suit for juſtice, on this hope,
That I am recommended by the Pope." (*c*)
So ſaw and heard her pleading, muſt confeſs,
I had *Falſtaff*'s fleſh, and wit, and wickedneſs;
So' ſome there were who thought her wanton plight
Reſembled more *Doll Tear-Sheet*, than *the Knight*.
But SATAN cried, "Thy claim I muſt deny,
For want of one Vice more, Hypocriſy; (*d*)

(*b*) This Piece was afterwards repreſented; but whether through fear, favour, or ſ, was ſo garbled, as ſoon to ſink into oblivion.

(*c*) Theſe two Potentates have ever been in ſtrict confederacy together; and his infallible Holineſs has ſent more ſouls to SATAN's empire, by his *pardons, abſolutions and dulgences*, than ever were diſpatched thither from the *Scaffold or the Gallows.*

(*d*) This was the anſwer of the late Lord Cheſterfield, to a profligate Parſon who as recommended to him as a Chaplain, once, when he was going Ambaſſador to *he States.* There were ſcandalous Parſons in thoſe times, it ſeems, as well as in the reſent ones.

"Your

" Your barefaced Sinners are not worth my notice,
" Demure pretending Saints, *hoc eſt in votis.* (*e*)
" Then back return, re-wed your former Peer,
" And taſte an Hell on earth, ere you come here."

The Court was now diſturbed. A jovial troop
Of female libertines appeared *en groupe*;
O——, B———, E——, B———,
H———, T———, and a Hundred more;
Which noiſy Amazons made ſuch a riot,
That SATAN thought 't had been a Poliſh Diet.
" Zounds!" quoth he, in a rage, " whence this abuſe?
" Call up my guards—What! is all Hell broke looſe?"

(*e*) This is a Sentence from Horace, but falſly quoted.—The Verb Subſtantive is in the preterimperfect tenſe there, but turned into the preſent time here. T one of the vices of verſe, which, like the tyranny of Procruſtes, lengthens or ſho the members, according as they ſuit its own meaſure. But poſſibly our Author, is an adept in metaphyſics, may reply, that there is no diſtinction of times or tenſe the Region of Spirits—the paſt, the preſent, and the future being all the inſtant among immortal beings.

deafened Cryer thrice proclaimed, *O Yes!*—
Imps and Implings (*f*) gave a general hiſs.

lence at laſt obtained, each ſtrove to ſhew
ſeveral right *to rule the roaſt below*;
SATAN tired with prate, thus made reply;
our claims ſo like, and equal are, that I
an ſee no choice, except Polygamy:
at when my future Queen takes ſtate upon her,
e ſhall be all preferred to—*Maids of Honour*." (*g*)

he Scene now ſhifted, on the ſtage appears
Sock and Buſkin Heroines, linked in pairs;

) We have looked for this diminutive of a diminutive, in Johnſon's Dictionary, in —We are, therefore, at a loſs for ſufficient authority to ſupport the word, ex- we may ſuppoſe it an alluſion to the vulgar expreſſion, which is ſometimes applied demure Sinner, *that he is as innocent as a Devil of Two Years old.*

) Here the Devil ſeems to have been a little out, in the point of Etiquette; for as luſtrious groupe are all Matrons, he could only appoint them to be *Ladies of the hamber.*

B—— and Y—— firſt trail the purple train;
Next A——— and B—— intervene,
'Twixt Y—— and B———, who cloſe the Scene.

Their Plea was modeſt, which is ſomething rare,
In any Modern male or female Player; (*b*)
For, not preſuming on their own demerits,
Their peccadillos, in this land of *ſpirits*,
They only claim'd, that having acted Queens,
On COVENT GARDEN and old DRURY's ſcenes,
And being *Shadows*, in the mimic ſhow,
Their rank they challenged in the *Shades* below;
And thought themſelves intitled to obtain
An equal dignity in PLUTO's reign. (*i*)

(*b*) Our Author's Sarcaſm here is, in general, too true; for we know but few ceptions to the remark.

(*i*) A poetical licence again! See our former Note, upon a ſimilar paſſage, in pa But probably the Author meant to be critical, in this place, by making a di tion here between the imaginary Tartarus of the Pagan Creed, and the real Hell o Chriſtian Belief. In the firſt, Souls were but *Shadows*, which was too metaphyſ notion to ſway the multitude. But the latter doctrine tells us, that we ſhall *pick* crumbs again, at the day of judgment, in order to receive *corporal puniſhment*. T

AN, who has wit and humour, if he'd ſhew it,
who but him made ROCHESTER a Poet?
ho the Author of the *Henriade* (*k*) ——
red to write the filthy *Pucellade?* (*l*)
nſtigated the *Diabolade)?* (*m*)
s, with a ſly, Sardonic ſmile, replied:
our claim, fair Puppets, muſt be here denied;
or, hear a truth, a truth for once I'll tell:
Vhate'er your ſtate, while yet on earth ye dwell,
our Green-Room Dolls are *Kitchen Maids* in Hell." (*n*)

) M. Voltaire.

) *La Pucelle d' Orleans*, or, The Maid of Orleans.

) *The Diabolade*, for The *Diaboliad*. The firſt ſhould have been the Title, by all of Derivation. 'Tis a Subſtantive, and the latter is an Adjective. Diaboli*adus, da,* Beſides the juſtneſs of the alteration in the Word, our Author might have had a er intereſt in it, alſo, as his own Title of *Diabo-Lady* derives more fairly from one than the other.

) This is meant in Oppoſition to *Maids of Honour*, above-mentioned; as he did not their ſtation or character in life, entitled them to any higher office, in the hold of the *Pandemonium*.

Long noted in the rolls of Infamy,

** ſtept forth, and claim'd the vacant crown,

For every crime that bears in Hell renown.

Her argument ſhe thus maintained with force,

Recounting deeds of blame from bad to worſe:

" Tho' bleſt with beauty, rank, and powers to engage,

" To charm in Youth, and win *Time-honour'd* (*o*)age;

" Yet ſtill ambitious of a nobler aim,

" I ſquandered beauty, dignity, and fame,

" To earn thy notice, thy loved Empire own,

" And, *jure infernali*, ſhare thy throne—

" Falſe to my huſband's bed, I ſcorned to rove

" Thro' common guilt, but choſe inceſtuous love;

" I drove him to diſtraction and deſpair,

" And then *removed* a Siſter and her heir;

(*o*) An Epithet borrowed from Shakeſpeare, in Richard II.

make Succeſſion ſure, and ſeal the deed,
Which helped my ſpurious iſſue to ſucceed (*p*)

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

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f favours profligate, and nothing nice,
many another mean ignoble vice;
gamboled, and I gambled deep at play,
nd raiſed finances in leſs legal way;
weated gold, (*q*) and practiſed every cheat,
Which, known to thee, I need not here repeat.
y deeds with thine compared, in every art,
ove me in all—thy worthy counterpart:
fine, to crown my merits, you ſhall find
n the reverſe of her you left behind:

) This is an old Story; and we confeſs that we agree in the ſame Charity with ood old Woman, who, hearing of *the Paſſion*, one Sunday at Church, ſaid, that, *was ſo long ago, ſhe hoped in the Lord that it was not true.*

) Another obſolete Story.

" Behold, my Liege, my locks, like thine, are grey. (r)
" Father of Lies! accept my proffered hand,
" What richer portion canſt thou now demand?
" For e'en to all the Ruſſias ſhou'dſt thou rove,
" I equal CATHERINE, both in hate and love;
" And were SEMIRAMIS herſelf alive,
" With her in deeds of darkneſs I dare ſtrive."

The liſtening Imps with wonder ſtood amazed,
And at each period ſubtler ſulphur blazed;
While at a diſtance, on the Elyſian Plains,
Where even the Bleſt re-act their former ſcenes
Of mortal life, was ſeen in geſture wild,
A mournful Mother weeping o'er her child. (s)
The aſtoniſh'd Court ſat ſilent all the while,
SATAN *grinned horribly a ghaſtly ſmile*; (t)

(r) See The Diaboliad, page 23.

(s) See page 17, laſt line.

(t) *Grinned horribly*, &c. MILTON.

cried, " Resolved—I swear, By [illegible]

thy alliance my firm choice I fix."

nuptial torches yield a brimstone flame,

Heralds are commanded to proclaim,

Ætna's thunders, and infernal Yell,

* is crowned unrivalled Queen of Hell!

11 : 7 : 19

FINIS.